

# Abwoon

... toward peace through the wisdom of the middle eastern traditions

## Dear Friends,

I welcome once again the coming year with a sense of determination and hope. The need of the world requires new solutions and new ways of looking at old, seemingly intractable problems. The growing sense of global unity is being supported on all sides, as the Internet makes possible a global response to what seemed previously to be local problems. At the same time, a growing sense of dissatisfaction pervades postmodern culture. The “God-sized hole” in the modern psyche of which French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre spoke, is still very much present.

In our own modest way, the team at Abwoon Study Circle is responding to the desire for greater understanding about and interspiritual experience of the Middle Eastern traditions, both within and on the fringes of organized religion.

We support a network of spiritual activists — ministers, teachers, meditators, retreat directors, therapists and healers — who are creating interspiritual communities around the world. Under many different names, these “Abwoon Interspiritual Communities” are actively engaged in:

- Realizing and spreading the **global consciousness of unity**;
- Bridging **understanding between the traditions of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar** through shared story, meditation and interspiritual ritual;
- Building **communities of peace** through the celebration of sacred diversity;
- Sharing the **vision of purpose, creativity and empowerment** that prophet Yeshua calls *malkuta* and which is known in Hebrew as *malkuth* and in Arabic as *al-Malik*.

Key to supporting these new communities is the **Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Training**. Due to the tremendous response to it last year, I am beginning a **second North American group beginning in April 2008** in Columbus, Ohio. The first North American group began last April and the European group began in Scotland last July. Some of the individual 3-day modules, particularly those in Scotland (April and November) will also be open to those who are not in the full three-year program. You will find all of the details online at [www.abwoon.com](http://www.abwoon.com) and in the insert page in this newsletter.

Other highlights of this year’s program include two **five-day SoulWork retreats** (September in Germany and October in Oregon) with Murshid Mariam Baker. SoulWork, an inheritance of my teacher Murshid Moineddin Jablonski, is a way of integrating the energetic and contemplative experiences of spiritual practice in one’s everyday life in a deeper way, one that recognizes the “soul” as an evolving process rather than a “thing” to be problematized (as in some types of therapy) or exiled.

In addition, I am conducting a **five-day training and retreat in Sufi zikr and zikr dance** in Estonia in July. I was a member of one of the first Western zikr study circles (beginning in 1977) to explore this ancient Sufi practice and its place in modern life — for healing — body, mind and soul. As part of this exploration, I traveled to the Middle East, India and Pakistan in 1979-80, experiencing zikr with Sheikh Muzaffer of the Halveti-Jerahi order, Sheikh Suleiman Dede of the Mevlevi order and Pir Barkat Ali of the Chishti order. Over the years, I experienced zikr as led by many different Sufi sheikhs and pirs around the world, and made a study of the writings of Murshid Samuel Lewis (the founder of the Dances of Universal Peace) concerning them. The retreat is open to all and will be held at Altmoisa, a beautiful four-star guest house on the Baltic coast near a bird sanctuary. Registration details are on the next-to-last page of this newsletter and on the insert.

If you don’t already have a copy, you will probably want to order the new *Abwoon Circles* manual compiled by Dr. Elizabeth Reed. It’s an indispensable do-it-yourself guide to starting your own interspiritual community, with sample lesson/meeting plans and resources that link all of the books and recordings I’ve produced over the past 17 years. There’s more information on the next page.

The largest change this year is the inauguration of the new **Abwoon Resource Center in Columbus, Ohio, USA**. For the past several years, Selim Turnor, who has run the Abwoon bookstore out of California single-handedly, has wanted to retire and downsize. This meant finding a new home for the Abwoon resources he has so devotedly distributed for 15 years. Dr. Elizabeth Reed and I took this challenge as an opportunity to envision a new way of putting Abwoon resources into the hands of many more people. This led to the creation of the new Abwoon Resource Center under the auspices of the non-profit Shalem Center. We have been blessed with a generous start-up grant for this project from the Kalliopeia Foundation as well as donations from individuals within the Abwoon network. The new center is already engaged in several projects, which are detailed herein. Many thanks to Selim for his years of dedication and service! We wish you good fishing and eth-phatah!

One of the new projects of the Abwoon Resource Center is an **Archive Project** to begin recording many of my workshops and seminars, including the whole of the leadership program. Due to the very generous grant of a private individual, we have begun to record. The editing will take more time, of course, but the final goal will be greater accessibility to Abwoon interspiritual resources, on CD and DVD as well as through podcasts and the Web.

As always, we invite your prayers, support and whatever participation you feel moved to offer. May all we do and are benefit the unfolding Reality of the cosmos!

Love and blessings,  
Neil Douglas-Klotz

## Visions and Ventures: Donor and Foundation Support

The past year has been an extremely exciting year with a major expansion of the Abwoon work. This has been made possible solely through donations and grants received. A generous grant from the Kalliopeia Foundation supported this year's two major projects (the AILP program and the Resource Center) to come into being, especially in supporting administrative and management costs.

Because of this financial support for new visions of this work, we have been able to begin not just one, but three groups of the **Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program**. An individual donor has provided a scholarship fund to make it possible for some worthy people to participate through the three-and-a-half years.

We have moved the **Abwoon Resource Center** to the Shalem Center in Worthington, Ohio. All Abwoon resource orders will process through Ohio rather than California as of November 2007. Lucy Oliver raised funds to make the initial book inventory purchases to begin the book operation. Bill Tardy is now the volunteer bookstore order fulfillment manager; his contact information is contained in the catalogue section. More good wishes are added here for Selim Turnor, retiring bookstore manager, who will continue to serve Abwoon through responding to email correspondence and possibly staffing the bookstore for some local event(s) in the future.

As a part of the Abwoon Resource Center, a donor has provided for a **Video and Archiving Project**. We have purchased a video camera, microphones and other needed equipment to record Neil Douglas-Klotz's teachings at various workshops and retreats. We hope that in the future, with further funding and skilled volunteer support, teaching DVDs, podcasts, and other media can be produced on special topics from the captured footage. Our on-going vision is to widen the breadth of audience as well as to help individuals deepen with the Aramaic and Native Middle Eastern translation and spiritual practice work of Neil Douglas-Klotz.

Another donor funded the **Southern Libraries Resources Project**. This project places resources of Neil Douglas-Klotz in public libraries in southern states. Mary Richardson has been hard at work contacting local libraries to find those who are open to receiving and shelving these resources. If you live in the southern USA and your nearest public (or county) library does not have Abwoon resources on its shelves, then you may ask the library's circulation manager if the library would like to receive a gift of a few titles by Neil Douglas-Klotz. If they would, send us an email message at [resourcecenter@abwoon.com](mailto:resourcecenter@abwoon.com) with the name, address and contact person at the library. Please send your request as soon as possible — resources will be distributed until the funds are disbursed.

Help the Abwoon Resource Center continue its existence and continue with these projects and future projects or programs. Since Abwoon receives no outside funding, we rely solely on donations to support this work. Much has been blossoming during this 25th anniversary year of Douglas-Klotz's translation of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer. We continue with open arms, open minds and open hearts for more to come if it is in resonance with the unfolding purpose of the Source of All.

All gifts, small or large, are greatly appreciated. If you wish to contribute in any way and desire to talk with someone personally to arrange a gift, contact the Rev. Elizabeth Reed of the Shalem Center at 614-441-9773.

Articles ©2007 Abwoon Study Circle

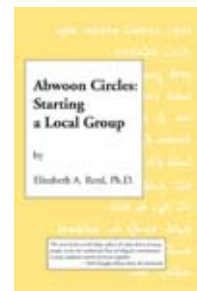
## Catalogue of Resources

### BOOKS

#### **ABWOON CIRCLES: Starting a Local Group**

by  
Elizabeth A. Reed, Ph.D.

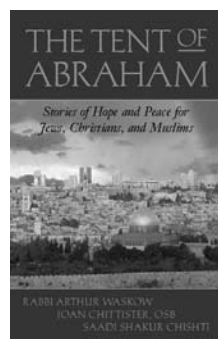
This manual is designed for people who have no or little group facilitation training or experience. It focuses on small group processes — including peer-led and facilitator-led groups.



The manual includes:

- Twenty-two short-term group models that may be followed as written or adapted for specific groups
- Lesson (or meeting) plans based upon all major Abwoon resources by Neil Douglas-Klotz, Ph.D. as of 2007
- Multiple lesson (or meeting) plans for most resources with various approaches for different groups
- Cross-referenced tables of resources and suggestions for leaders to create their own plans
- Insights and suggestions from experienced Abwoon Circle leaders

Paperback, \$27.00. Open Arms Publishing.



#### **THE TENT OF ABRAHAM: Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims**

by  
Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Joan Chittister, OSB  
and Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti  
With a foreword by Karen Armstrong

In recent years there has been an explosion of curiosity and debate about Islam and about the role of religion, both in the world and in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The numerous books published on these questions speak to issues of politics, history, or global security. None speaks to the heart and the spirit, and yet millions of people experience these issues not as political, economic, or intellectual questions but as questions of deep spiritual, emotional, and religious significance.

Three key religious thinkers write about the story of Abraham as a way to deepen Muslim, Christian, and Jewish understanding. *The Tent of Abraham* provides readers with stories that can bring all the faiths together. Written by Saadi Shakur Chishti, a Scottish-American Sufi, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, an American Jew, and Joan Chittister, a Benedictine sister, the book explores in accessible language the mythic quality and the teachings of reconciliation that are embedded in the Torah, the Qur'an, and the Bible. It also weaves together the wisdoms of the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian traditions into a deeper, more unified whole.

*The Tent of Abraham* is the first book to tell the whole story of Abraham as found in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim sources and to reenergize it as a basis for peace.

Joan Chittister, OSB, is a lecturer and best-selling author of numerous books, including *Called to Question*. She lives in Erie, Pennsylvania. Rabbi Arthur Waskow is the director of The Shalom Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and author of numerous books, including *Seasons of Our Joy* (Beacon \$18.00) and *Down-to-Earth Judaism*. Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti (Neil Douglas-Klotz) is an internationally known Sufi scholar and writer. His most recent book is *The Sufi Book of Life*.

Hardback, \$24.95; Paperback, \$15. Beacon Press.

"This book will open your eyes to the possibilities for collaborative work between our traditions, and is a must-read for those doing interfaith peacework." — Tikkun

"[A] celebration of religious diversity that is likely to leave readers more optimistic about the potential for peace." — David Crumm, Detroit Free Press

"At a time when we have seen too much certainty, The Tent of Abraham reminds us that the kind of confusion, fear, and dismay that so many of us are experiencing can be the start of a new religious quest... The Tent of Abraham brings three religious traditions together so that we may all become more familiar with the faiths lived by the strangers around us." — Karen Armstrong, from the Foreword

"We have seen all too much evidence of how the three Western faiths can be used to foment hatred and bloodshed. People really must read this book, for the choice of interpreting our three faiths as the grounds for war or for peace is nothing less than a choice between life and death." — Rabbi Elliot N. Dorff, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, University of Judaism

"The Tent of Abraham, Hagar, and Sarah, open on all sides, and a tent of welcome to the 'other,' is an image critical to our fractured time. The stories of our common ancestors told in this book with such creative imagination inspire all of us to build community across the walls that normally divide us. This book is an inspiration for those who engage in such an exciting journey." — Bob Edgar, General Secretary, National Council of Churches

"When we share our spiritual journeys, even when the stories of our lives are different from each other, we often find their source in the Compassionate One who calls on us to be compassionate. So it is when we share the stories of our great family, the Family of Abraham, peace be upon him. This book shares our different stories in ways that beckon us toward peace and toward the One." — Sayyid M. Syeed, Ph.D., Secretary General, Islamic Society of North America



**BLESSINGS OF THE COSMOS:  
Benedictions from the Aramaic Words of Jesus**  
by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Aramaic — the language Jesus and his disciples spoke — has captured the imagination of Christians around the world. Since the publication of his 1990 best-seller *Prayers of the Cosmos*, Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz has been recognized as a foremost expert at interpreting the native wisdom of the Middle Eastern spiritual traditions.

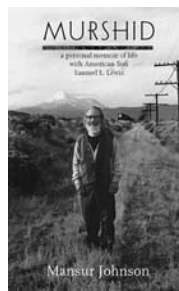
If we could travel back to the world of ancient Palestine and hear Jesus teach in his native tongue, what would we learn? Through his insightful translations from the Aramaic language that Jesus and his disciples actually spoke, Neil Douglas-Klotz uncovers the rich layers of meaning and wisdom found in Jesus' original words.

In *Blessings of the Cosmos*, this renowned scholar presents Jesus' best-loved benedictions, including:

- His last messages to the disciples, including the "great commandment" on love, the "many mansions" teaching, the blessing of "greater works," and more
- How to find the divine presence in unexpected places
- Invocations of light, joy, peace, and faith
- A wealth of body-based practices designed to bring spiritual energy and insight
- An 80-minute CD with many guided prayers in Aramaic

Whether for personal inspiration or use in communal worship and rites of passage, with *Blessings of the Cosmos*, readers now have a heart-opening prayer book that will ever deepen their experience of the divine.

Hardback book plus CD, **\$18.95**. Sounds True.



**MURSHID: A personal memoir of life with  
American Sufi Samuel L. Lewis**  
by Mansur Johnson

Otis B. Johnson was a young college professor of English in the 1960's when he joined the exodus of hippies to California to meet someone his friend said could take them where they wanted to go the fastest. Where did they want to go? They wanted to meet the divinity, obtain God-consciousness, get enlightened, find love, experience samadhi, in short — they didn't know for sure.

What happened? Otis B. Johnson became Mansur Johnson during a three-year encounter with the world's first Guru-Roshi-Murshid, Samuel L. Lewis. *Murshid* shows in intimate detail how Samuel L. Lewis, the first Western-born Sufi teacher, Zen master, and practitioner of Indian cosmic metaphysics, accomplished his life's purpose.

Illustrated with many previously unpublished photos of Murshid Samuel Lewis and his early students.

"Dear Reader: Prepare for a unique adventure of spiritual discovery and transformation... you have before you a wild, bucking-bronco of a ride. Hold on!" — from the foreword by Neil Douglas-Klotz

"Every time I remember Sam, I end up laughing at myself. That's pretty good work for a dead rascal-saint." — Ram Dass, author of *Still Here: Embracing Aging, Changing and Dying*

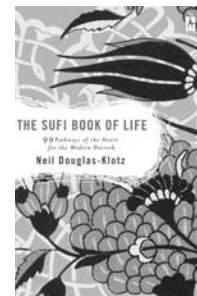
"I have no fonder memory of the 60's than the appearance of this strange-looking man, who said things that made me first laugh, then smile, then later pause in appreciation of a spiritual original, a pioneer." — Dr. Jacob Needleman, author of *The Wisdom of Love* and *The American Soul*

Paperback, **\$25.00**. PeaceWorks Publications.

**THE SUFI BOOK OF LIFE: 99 Pathways of the  
Heart for the Modern Dervish**  
by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Taking the centuries-old form of a "dervish handbook," this is a guide to life and love updated for the twenty-first century. This book offers a fresh interpretation of the fundamental spiritual practice found in all ancient and modern Sufi schools — the meditations on the 99 Qualities of Unity. This accessible guide is a handbook that explains how to apply Sufi principles to modern life with inspirational commentary that connects each quality with contemporary concerns such as love, work, and success, as well as timeless wisdom from Sufi masters, both ancient and modern, such as Rumi, Hafiz, Shabistari, Rabia, Inayat Khan, Idries Shah, Irina Tweedie and Bawa Muhaiyaddeen.

Paperback, **\$15.00**. Penguin Compass Original.  
Visit [www.sufibookoflife.com](http://www.sufibookoflife.com) for more information.



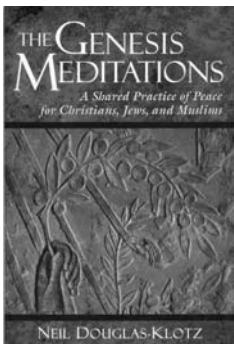
**HEART OF THE QUR'AN**

by Lex Hixon  
edited with commentary by Neil Douglas-Klotz

900 key passages of the Qur'an rendered into English with a focus on their spiritual experience and meaning, revealing the Qur'an's teachings as one of the great wisdom traditions of humanity. In this edition, Neil Douglas-Klotz has rearranged the passages thematically and provided commentary for each major theme.

The result makes the teachings even more accessible, allowing the reader easily to find relevant readings for guidance on everyday issues such as love, relationships, work, justice, gratitude, self-knowledge, and prayer.

Paperback, **\$18.95, £13**. Quest Books.



**THE GENESIS MEDITATIONS: A Shared Practice of Peace for Christians, Jews and Muslims**

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

This book focuses on an ancient form of meditation that unites the three religions of the Middle East: the creation of the universe and the archetype of the first human being. In experiencing the creation story as our own, personal story, we recreate and renew ourselves. Through practicing this original meditation, we can access this power for self-renewal and deeper connection with the divine in our

everyday lives. Hardback, **\$24.95, £17**. Quest Books.

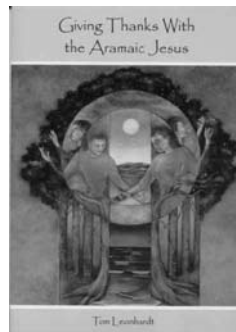
“This is truly a book for our times, revealing the common root of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and making it available in a wise and practical way.” — Joan Borysenko, Ph.D.

“By the time we finish his book, we are ready and able to join body, heart, mind and spirit into a healing wholeness — indeed, the wholeness of Creation.” — Rabbi Arthur Waskow

**PRAYERS OF THE COSMOS: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus**

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

A pioneering book in the movement to recover the wisdom of Jesus as a Native Middle Eastern person. The Lord's Prayer and Beatitudes in new, multi-layered interpretive translations, from the native language of Jesus. Paperback edition, **\$13.00, £8.99**. Harper San Francisco (English), Knauer (German), East-West (Dutch), Triom Publishers (Brasil).



**GIVING THANKS WITH THE ARAMAIC JESUS**

by Tom Leonhardt

This book includes fifteen complete worship services based on the work of Neil Douglas-Klotz. The material is usable in a number of ways — from personal prayer to communal worship. Each service concentrates on a line of the Lord's Prayer or one of seven Beatitudes and suggests Dances of Universal Peace that are appropriate to the given theme. Paperback, **\$17**. Woven Word Press.

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**The Genesis Meditations**

Companion CD to the book. You can learn to say and chant the words to 14 chants in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Arabic related to our shared cosmic creation stories. Each phrase or word is repeated several times, with space for you to repeat it for easy memorization or to use with the meditations in the book. CD: 68 minutes. **\$15 (\$13 online), £10. SPECIAL: Order both the book and CD online for \$36.**

**Desert Wisdom Body Prayers and Chants**

A companion tape to the book with readings, guided meditations and a selection of the chants used in the body prayers. Tape. **\$5, £2.50.**

**Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Lord's Prayer**

Live recording at Lama Foundation in New Mexico in 1989. Powerful, 100-voice rendition of the entire prayer cycle. CD. **\$15, £10.**

**Prayers of the Cosmos**

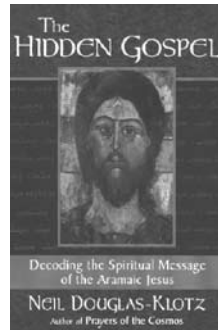
A companion to the book, gives clear pronunciations of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer and Beatitudes. Also, all melodies to both cycles sung clearly by Neil Douglas-Klotz. CD. **\$15 (\$10 online), £10.**

**Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Beatitude Way**

Live recording at the site of the “Upper Room” at St. Mark's Convent in Jerusalem during 1993. Moving, devotional recording, wonderful for chanting and meditation. CD. **\$15 (\$13 online), £10.**

**A Native Middle Eastern Cycle**

Seasonal chants and Dances of Universal Peace drawn from the ancient Middle Eastern Goddess traditions. Includes Belit Mati, Shaddai, Hokhmah Allatu, Innana Damuzi, Eyeh Asher Eyeh, and others. Voices and instruments. CD. **\$15 (\$13 online), £10.**



**THE HIDDEN GOSPEL: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus**

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

The Hidden Gospel of Jesus is... not buried in the sands, not locked in a secret library, not being channeled by a new messiah. The Hidden Gospel is in plain sight. We find it in Jesus' familiar sayings newly translated from Aramaic, the Middle Eastern language he actually spoke.

What emerges is a hopeful, nurturing, and very contemporary spiritual message. Each chapter includes meditative exercises and body prayers

for directly experiencing the life-changing spiritual practice of Jesus' original mystical tradition. Paperback, **\$14.95, £10.99**. Quest Books (English), Koesel (German), Ankh-Hermes (Dutch).

**DESERT WISDOM: Sacred Middle Eastern Writings from the Goddess to the Sufis**

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

From ancient Egypt through mystical Judaism and the Aramaic Jesus to classical Sufism, *Desert Wisdom* weaves a rich, colorful tapestry that allows these ancient voices to speak to us today. Use *Desert Wisdom* as a handbook of daily inspiration, oracle or source book. Through writings, chants, meditations and body prayers, you will experience in your bones this sacred Earth tradition. Hardback. **\$20.00, £12.50**. Harper San Francisco (US & Canada), Thorsons (UK), Santiago Verlag (Germany), Altamira (Netherlands), Record (Brasil).



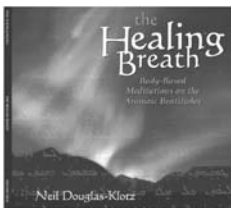
**WISDOM COMES DANCING: Selected Writings of Ruth St. Denis on Dance, Spirituality and the Body**

edited and with notes by Kamae A Miller

Delight in life, beauty and movement fill the pages of *Wisdom Comes Dancing*, a collection of previously unpublished writings by the mother of American modern dance. St. Denis, the teacher of Martha Graham and other American dance pioneers, was the most photographed woman of her era. Her essays, talks and poetry show a fiery passion and cool intelligence as she addresses topics such as her vision of the arts as a force for social justice and the role of women in peace-making. The book includes many striking photographs of St. Denis in dances inspired by great women prophets, humanitarians and goddesses of various traditions. Paperback, **\$15.95, £10.99**. (PeaceWorks). German edition available from Santiago Verlag ([www.santiagoverlag.de](http://www.santiagoverlag.de)).

**CLOSE-OUT SPECIAL**

All remaining *Prayers of Cosmos*, *The Beatitude Way* and *Desert Wisdom* tapes are \$5 until sold out.



### THE HEALING BREATH: Body-based Meditations on the Aramaic Beatitudes

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

Using Jesus' native Aramaic language as a lens, this series leads us through one of the great healer's best-loved talks — the Beatitudes (or “Blessed are...” sayings) and shows how this seemingly simple set of sentences reveals a profound approach to healing and wholeness. Each saying takes you deeper and deeper into this divine source of healing. This set gives you ways to access it in your everyday life, using body prayer and spiritual practice drawn from Jesus' own teachings with 12 in-depth sessions, which include 24 meditations involving body awareness, sound, breath and gentle movement.

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Resource Center, or your local Internet source.

Length: 6 CDs with accompanying booklet for **\$69.95, £48.**

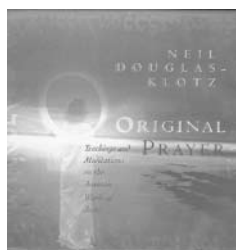
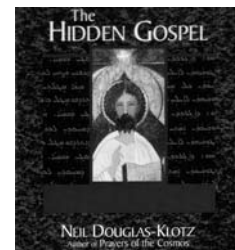
### THE HIDDEN GOSPEL: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

If we could travel back to the world of ancient Palestine and hear Jesus teach in his own native tongue, what would we learn? These Sounds True CDs are not a reading of the *Hidden Gospel* book, but a live recording of a workshop with Neil that touches on the main themes of the book. The recordings were edited so that one can listen to the material in 20-minute segments. They are very high quality CDs and perfect for Abwoon Circles. They do not repeat the material in the *Original Prayer* series.

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Resource Center, or your local Internet source.

Length: 3 CDs, 180 minutes, with accompanying study booklet. **\$24.95, £14.**



### ORIGINAL PRAYER: Teachings and Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

*Original Prayer* begins by exploring the many rich layers of meaning enfolded within New Testament scriptures written in Aramaic, the language that Jesus and his disciples actually spoke. Through specific insights revealed within the Aramaic Lord's Prayer, listeners learn over a dozen unique “body prayers,” an ancient Middle Eastern form of meditation that engages the entire body in the contemplation of scripture. This is the same devotional practice used by the early Christians to delve into the Gospels — not as a scholarly exercise, but as a living, breathing experience of God.

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Resource Center, or your local bookstore or Internet source.

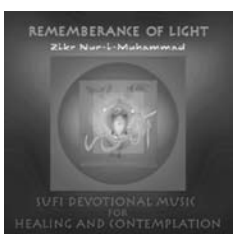
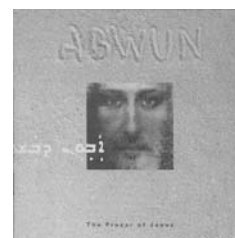
Length: 6 CDs with accompanying booklet for **\$69.95, £45.**

### ABWUN

A Mantric Oratorio by the Overtone Choir of Düsseldorf from the melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz

The original melodies for the various lines of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer were composed through Neil Douglas-Klotz in 1982–83, as part of his meditative research of the prayer. These melodies are used in a cycle of Dances of Universal Peace, which allows the sounds and feelings of the various lines to be prayed with the whole body. The beautiful arrangements of Christian Bollmann and the Overtone Choir enrich the multi-textual feeling of the prayer. In this new aural soundscape, the various threads of the prayer weave dynamically and allow the hearer to be bathed in an atmosphere of sacredness.

CD: 72 minutes. **\$18.99, £12.99.**



### REMEMBRANCE OF LIGHT: Zikr Nur-i-Muhammad

Sufi Devotional Music for Healing and Contemplation

by Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chishti)

Bathe in the light of Unity with this CD, which celebrates the One in a six-part cycle of music and sacred words. A celebration of the unity of light and the diversity of sound from the Sufi tradition. The six parts include: 1) Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim: We begin in the Name, Sound and Vibration of the Sun and the Moon of Love. 2) Basir Allah, Sami Allah: Celebration of seeing and hearing the One all around us. 3) La illaha illa 'llah hu: There is no reality but the One. 4) Hu Hu Hu Allah: From the center of sound there is only Unity. 5) Allah Huma Salle Allah Nuri Mohammed: Blessings of Unity on the light of the perfection of humanity. 6) Peace and Blessings on all Prophets and Lovers of the One and Il Allah Hu Canon — Only Unity Exists.

CD: 63 minutes. **\$16, £10.**

### Beginnings: A Modern Oratorio Inspired by the Shared Creation Stories of the Middle East

A Musical Collaboration by Neil Douglas-Klotz, Abraham Sussman and Friends.

Enjoy as a companion to the book *The Genesis Meditations*, for listening, contemplation and movement. Voice, guitars, violin, hand drums, piano, flute, cello, bass, accordion, horns and harp.

CD: 80 minutes. **\$15, £10.**



### SIMPLE PRESENCE: Dancing “I Am” with the Aramaic Jesus

Native Middle Eastern Chant & Devotional Music

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

The “I Am” statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John, as viewed from Jesus' native Aramaic language, point to a state of “simple presence” — a connection to the “I Am that I Am.” Each feeling or experience mentioned is a doorway to this connection. This recording gives chants and music to a sequence of Dances of Universal Peace that use seven of these “I Am” statements in Aramaic. Listening to, chanting with and contemplating these chants can take the listener into the **shem** of Jesus — his vibration or atmosphere — and fulfill his advice to pray **b'sheme** (“with my light-sound-atmosphere”).

CD: 65 minutes. **\$16.99, £10.**



### THE OPENING:

#### Sura Fateha—A Prayer for Peace

This CD has the first sura of the Qur'an, with its emphasis on love, unity and surrender to the One Being, in musical form for chanting. An expanded translation of the Sura appears in the *Desert Wisdom* book.

"These melodies came through while on a personal retreat during the passing of my own

Sufi guide, Moineddin Jablonski, in February 2001 and are dedicated to him. The melodies contain much of his feeling and emphasis on embracing both the shadow and light in one's own being, with joy and acceptance. I encourage it to be used as a chanted prayer for peace."

— Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chishti)

CD: 36 minutes. \$15, £10. Recorded in Germany.

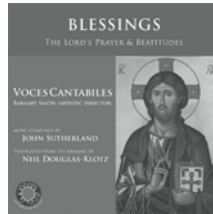
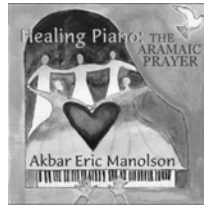
### HEALING PIANO:

#### The Aramaic Prayer

Themes and variations composed and performed by Akbar Eric Manolson

Inspired by the melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz. This is a CD of **solo piano music**, subtle and dynamic, without vocal singing or additional accompaniment.

The purpose of this music is both to relax and to energize. It offers you a new way to experience the inspiration and beauty of this ancient invocation. CD: 61 minutes. \$18, £11.30. (special, limited-time offering)



### BLESSINGS:

#### The Lord's Prayer and Beatitudes

Choral settings of the teaching Jesus gave in the Lord's Prayer and the Beatitudes are sung by Voces Cantabiles, an internationally acclaimed choir, and based on English translations from the Aramaic by Neil Douglas-Klotz. Music by John Sutherland, Music Director at St. Mary's Rydal in the English Lake District. writings and teachings.

(Visit <http://www.sutherlandsounds.co.uk/> to listen to sample excerpts.)

"John Sutherland's inspired artistry brings fully into liturgical form the ability to hear Yeshua with Aramaic ears." — Neil Douglas-Klotz

CD: 51 minutes. \$20. (special, limited-time offering)

## V I D E O

#### ABWUN: The Video with Christian Bollmann and the Overtone Choir of Düsseldorf

This video features parts of a live performance of the *ABWUN* mantric oratorio composed by Christian Bollmann from the original melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz. The performance in Berlin, Germany organized in October 1999 by the local Dances of Universal Peace group, drew more than 600 people. Most of the first twenty minutes of the oratorio is included in the video along with selected excerpts of the remainder. Excerpts of a short address by Neil Douglas-Klotz in German precede the performance. Perfect for Abwoon Circles.

DVD: 35 minutes. \$35.



## Ordering Information for Abwoon Resources

Abwoon Resource Center, 881 High Street, Suite 206, Worthington, OH 43085 USA. Tel. 1-614-429-4009, E-mail: [baq@abwoon.com](mailto:baq@abwoon.com). The Abwoon web site [www.abwoon.com](http://www.abwoon.com) offers secure, online domestic and international ordering for all of the listed publications and recordings. Bill Abdul Qadir Tardy is the new Bookstore Manager.

Retail US shipping and handling through USPS is \$4.25 for the first item and \$1.05 for each additional item. Wholesale and international orders are charged actual shipping costs. Contact the office for faster delivery and wholesale schedule.



Bill Abdul Qadir Tardy, the new Bookstore Manager

*In United Kingdom & Europe*, Selected English Abwoon books, tapes and CDs may be ordered from Carol Jones, Brynawel, 1 Heol Gwyndalis, Dihewyd, LAMPETER, Ceredigion, Wales, SA48 7PN, United Kingdom. Tel. 44-(0)1570-470066, E-mail: [carol@abwoon.com](mailto:carol@abwoon.com).

Retail UK shipping and handling is £2.50 for the first book (or £1 for the first tape or CD if no books are ordered) and 70p for each additional item. Make checks or money orders payable to Abwoon Study Circle UK.

*In Germany*, please contact Nurah-Majid Ruth Jaeger, NdL Secretariat, Str. am Schoelerpark 26, D-10715 Berlin, Germany. Tel. 49-(0)30-86207078, E-mail: [nurah@taenze-ndl.de](mailto:nurah@taenze-ndl.de) for German translations of *Prayers of the*

*Cosmos* (*Das Vaterunser*, Knauer Verlag), *Desert Wisdom* (*Weisheit der Wueste*, Santiago Verlag) including the Body Prayers recorded in German, *The Hidden Gospel* (*Prophet aus der Wueste*, Koesel Verlag), the instruction booklet for *Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Lord's Prayer* and other musical recordings. Please also enquire for information about German-language seminars in this work by Gita Onnen and Neil Douglas-Klotz.

*In Belgium*, please contact Wim and Arienne van der Zwan, Les Venues 44, B-5377 Heure (Somme-Leuze), Belgium. Tel. 32-(0)86-38-78-82, E-mail: [a&w@peaceinmotion.info](mailto:a&w@peaceinmotion.info) for Dutch-language editions of *Prayers of the Cosmos* (East-West Books), *Desert Wisdom* (Alta Mira), *The Hidden Gospel* (Ankh-Hermes), the Desert Wisdom Body Prayers in Dutch and the rest of the musical recordings. Please also enquire here for information about Dutch-language seminars in this work by Wim van der Zwan.

*In Brasil*, please contact Sabira Christina Dora Schkölziger, Caixa Postal 96947, 28.601-970 Nova Friburgo, RJ Brasil. Tel. 55-(0)22-2542-1337, Fax: +55-(0)22-2542-2052, E-mail: [sabira@uol.com.br](mailto:sabira@uol.com.br) for Portuguese editions of *Prayers of the Cosmos* (Triom Books), *Desert Wisdom* (Record) and some recordings. Please also enquire here about Brazilian Portuguese-language seminars in this work by Sabira Christina Dora Schkölziger.

*In Australia*, please contact Vajra Bennett, RMB 2592, Bucketty 2250, NSW, Australia. Tel. 61-(0)2-4376-1195, Fax: 61-(0)2-4376-1150, E-mail: [inana2@activ8.net.au](mailto:inana2@activ8.net.au)

## Web-based Meditation Course

Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed has edited and supplemented a 20-session, web-based, healing meditation course based on the books and tapes of Neil Douglas-Klotz. You can receive lessons twice a week, once a week or every other week.

Visit [www.SelfHealingExpressions.com](http://www.SelfHealingExpressions.com) for information and to register. If you sign up through the Abwoon web site by going through the link on [www.abwoon.com/WebCourses.html](http://www.abwoon.com/WebCourses.html), the Abwoon Study Circle receives a commission.

This and other courses are available for \$34.95.

## Major Events Led by Neil Douglas-Klotz

### In Europe:

#### April 3–6: nr Edinburgh, Scotland

*The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 2 —  
The Native Middle Eastern Roots of Western Spirituality*

#### November 13–16: nr Edinburgh, Scotland

*The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 3 —  
The Aramaic Beatitudes of Yeshua*

These are part of the on-going training for the first three-year program in Europe. These retreats are open to a limited number of participants who are not enrolled in the entire leadership program. Prior reading and an application form are required.

Contact: Fateah Alice Saunders, Tel. 44-(0)131-664-6206;  
Email: [alicefateah@btinternet.com](mailto:alicefateah@btinternet.com)

You may register online for these retreats at:  
[www.abwoon.com/workshops.html](http://www.abwoon.com/workshops.html)

#### July 19–24: Estonia

*Retreat and Training in Sufi Zikr and Zikr Dance and Movement  
with Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti*

Sufi zikr (or dhikr), meaning remembrance of our origin in Sacred Unity, has been called the “perfection of remembrance and the remembrance of perfection.” This retreat will explore the experiences invited by the lessons on this essential Sufi practice in the teachings of Murshid Samuel L. Lewis. It is based on a short course given at the Sufi Ruhaniat European Summer School in 2007. During the retreat, we will explore spoken, sung, silent and moving zikr from various traditions and consider how they can help us live more invigorated and joyful lives. We will also be sharing practices related to Sufi healing as well as the Healing Ritual of Hazrat Inayat Khan.

Saadi was a member of one of the first Western zikr study circles (beginning in 1977) to explore this ancient Sufi practice and its place in modern life — for healing body, mind and soul. As part of this exploration, he traveled to the Middle East, India and Pakistan in 1979–80, experiencing zikr with Sheikh Muzaffer of the Halveti-Jerahi order, Sheikh Suleiman Dede of the Mevlevi order and Pir Barkat Ali of the Chishti order. Over the years, he has experienced zikr as led by many different Sufi sheikhs and pirs around the world, in addition to becoming a channel for Sufi zikr and dance/movement cycles based on them, including: Nur-i-Muhammad zikr, Aramaic Prayer cycle, Beatitudes cycle, Native Middle Eastern cycle, Genesis cycles.

The retreat is open to all and will be held at Altmoisa, a beautiful guest house ([www.altmoisa.ee/english/index.php](http://www.altmoisa.ee/english/index.php)) on the Baltic coast near a bird sanctuary.

Contact and Registration: Silje Seppik at [siljeseppik@hotmail.com](mailto:siljeseppik@hotmail.com)

*See the full description of the **Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program** on the insert or online at [www.abwoon.com/AbwoonLeadership.html](http://www.abwoon.com/AbwoonLeadership.html). The modules in this program offer deepening for those wanting to establish a personal spiritual practice. There will be leadership training in body prayer, contemplation, chant, voice, walking meditation and the Dances of Universal Peace connected to this work.*

### In North America:

#### April 29–May 2: Columbus, OH

*The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 1 —  
Aramaic Spirituality I : The Aramaic Prayer of Yeshua*

This is the beginning of the second three-year program in North America. There may be a few places open to those not enrolling for the entire program.

#### May 4–7: Columbus, OH

*The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 3 —  
The Aramaic Beatitudes of Yeshua*

This is a continuation of the first three-year program.

#### October 21–24: Athens, GA

*The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 2 —  
The Native Middle Eastern Roots of Western Spirituality*

This is a continuation of the second three-year program.

#### October 26–29: Athens, GA

*The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 4 —  
The Creation Spiritual Traditions and Practices of Early Judaism,  
Christianity, Islam and Sufism.*

This is a continuation of the first three-year program.

These are closed, ongoing groups. A waiting list exists for potential participants who are not enrolled for the whole program. Prior reading and an application form are required.

Contact: the Rev. Elizabeth Reed, Shalem Center,  
Tel. 1-614-441-9773; Email: [munira@abwoon.com](mailto:munira@abwoon.com)

## Desert Flowers E-mail Study Group

Desert Flowers is a community of people around the world using the readings, body prayers, meditations and insights that are offered by Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz through his teachings and his books. We deepen our connection to the One by sharing our experiences during fixed check-in times: every 3 or 4 months for two weeks.

To join, you must be able to send and receive e-mail. For information, visit [www.abwoon.com/listserve.html](http://www.abwoon.com/listserve.html) or contact Richard McMurtry at [rmcmurtry@baymoon.com](mailto:rmcmurtry@baymoon.com).

## Donate to the Abwoon Work

Your help is appreciated in a variety of ways. You can designate gifts to specific areas of support such as programs and projects, administration, outreach work, and Dr. Douglas-Klotz's research and teaching. Many thanks to the people and organizations who have contributed to the work of Abwoon Study Circle over the past year. We are grateful for all gifts — small or large.

Contact the Rev. Munira Elizabeth Reed of the Shalem Center at 1-614-441-9773 or contribute by:

- Credit card through PayPal.com (use [donations@abwoon.com](mailto:donations@abwoon.com))
- Donor-initiated automatic monthly contributions
- Check payable to Shalem Center and marked “for Abwoon” sent to:  
The Shalem Center  
881 High Street, Suite 206  
Worthington, OH 43085

**Please remember Abwoon Study Circle in your holiday and year-end giving plans.** All contributions through the Shalem Center, which is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, are tax deductible. If you require a receipt for your donation, please let us know.



We refer to the small local study, sharing, and spiritual practice groups that focus upon the resources of Neil Douglas-Klotz as Abwoon Circles. If you are inspired by this work, there are no formal requirements to begin a group. Find one or two others who have interests similar to yours and simply begin.

There is now a book available to support you with specific lesson plans or with ideas for creating your own. *Abwoon Circles: Starting a Local Group* contains optional plans based on each one of the printed or audio resources by Neil Douglas-Klotz published as of 2007. You can order this book through the Abwoon Resource Center. You'll find ordering information in the catalogue section of this newsletter.

There are also people with experience in the Abwoon work who are willing to lend personal support as you start a group. Contact one of Abwoon Circle connectors in the box to the right. They may then refer you to another person who may be geographically closer to you. While no one claims to be an "Aramaic expert," these volunteers are people who are lovers of this work, have attended workshops or retreats, and may facilitate (either currently or in the past) a local Abwoon Circle. You can access the larger list of volunteers by visiting [www.abwoon.com/contact.htm](http://www.abwoon.com/contact.htm) and clicking the *here* link in the *For help setting up and supporting an Abwoon Circle* section.

Please remember: You do not need to have any leadership skills to

## Abwoon Circle Connectors

### In Eastern North America contact:

Linda Salima Kinney phone: 1-603-667-7696  
P.O. Box 1014 e-mail: [lindakinney@earthlink.net](mailto:lindakinney@earthlink.net)  
Enfield, NH 03748

### In Western North America contact:

Joyce Longobardo Carlson phone: 1-480-250-1888 (cell)  
13401 E Cindy Street 1-480-786-9774 (home)  
Chandler, Arizona 85225 e-mail: [painter4hire@cox.net](mailto:painter4hire@cox.net)

### In the United Kingdom contact:

Glenda Kafia Huggons phone: 44-(0)1395-222981  
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### In Australia/New Zealand contact:

Khannah phone: 61-(0)2-4376-1195  
RMB 2592 fax: 61-(0)2-4376-1150  
Bucketty 2250 NSW e-mail: [inana@activ8.net.au](mailto:inana@activ8.net.au)  
Australia

start a group — just the desire to connect with others to delve more deeply into this work. For example, some lesson plans in the *Abwoon Circles* book only require you to play a CD (or cassette tape) and follow as Neil Douglas-Klotz teaches and guides your group in spiritual practices.

Keep the Abwoon Circle connectors informed of any groups that begin (or end) in their area. They can then refer others, who ask for information about local groups, to the people who are meeting in a specific area. Blessings and peace on your local work.

**Abwoon Mailing List:** Contact Subhana Elizabeth Ferrio by e-mail at [eferrio@gmail.com](mailto:eferrio@gmail.com) with any updates or changes to your contact information for the Abwoon mailing list. You can also contact her to be added to or removed from the Abwoon mailing list.

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